

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00457 081208Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
IO-13 /105 W

-----015929 081215Z /15

O R 081140Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5936

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN

USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO

SUBJ: SIAD DEFIANT IN DEFENSE OF OGADEN; CHARGES US-SOVIET COLLUSION

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT SIAD'S BARRE'S MARCH 7 SPEECH

FOLLOWS:

A. EVEN IF THE GREAT POWERS HAVE COLLUDED TO DENY THE
SOMALI LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION,
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VICTORY WILL EVENTUALLY BELONG TO THE MOVEMENTS. THE SOVIET
UNION AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED THAT SOMALIA IS THE
AGGRESSOR; THEY HAVE FURTHER AGREED TO OPPRESS AND EXTERMINATE
BY FORCE THE SOMALI PEOPLE LIVING IN WESTERN SOMALIA.
SOMALIA WILL NEVER DEPART FROM ITS FORM COMMITMENT TO
SUPPORT ITS COLONIZED BREATHERN.

B. THE LIBERATION FORCES HAVE LOST GROUND IN SOME AREAS. THEY WERE REPULSED BY SOPHISTICATED FIGHTER-BOMBERS, TANKS, AND ARTILLERY. IT WAS NOT ETHIOPIANS WHO FORCED THE LIBERATION FORCES TO RETREAT, BUT RUSSIANS, CUBANS, AND THEIR ALLIES.

C. THERE IS NO REASON TO DEFER TAKING UP ARMS AND PREPARING TO DIE FOR OUR COUNTRY. SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT I SHALL RESIGN, BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL DIE WITH YOU. FIGHTING IS THE ONLY OPTION OPEN TO US NOW.

2. THE ABOVE SUMMARY WAS BASED ON THE SONNA REPORT AND THE NOTES OF AN EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE AT THE RALLY. THE GSDR HAS NOT RELEASED A TEXT, BUT A REBROADCAST IS SCHEDULED AND THE EMBASSY WILL RECORD IT THEN.

3. COMMENT: SIAD'S REHETORIC REFLECTS A POSITION HE CAN -NOT HOPE TO LONG MAINTAIN. THE SPEECH COMES AGAINST A BACK-DROP OF TWO DAYS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEBATE ON WHAT COURSE TO FOLLOW. WE SUSPECT THAT DEBATE WAS INCONCLUSIVE, AND WHILE SEEKING A FURTHER SOLUTION, DEFIANCE IS A USEFUL IMAGE TO PROJECT. SIAD'S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES, A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE SOMALIS HAVE BEEN SILENT SINCE FEBRUARY 27 (MOGADISCIO 0367), WAS MIRRORED LAST NIGHT BY RADIO MOGADISCIO IN A BROADCAST EXPRESSING CHAGRIN THAT THE US AND THE SOVIETS ARE COOPERATING IN SEEKING A SOMALI WITHDRAWAL
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FROM THE OGADEN AND SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO ETHIOPIA TO ANNIHILATE THE WESTERN SOMALI PEOPLE.
LOUGHRAN

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